

# TAKE ME BACK TO MAYBERRY

Lesson Topic: **Fear**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*“High Noon in Mayberry”*

Episode #80 – January 21, 1963

## CAST: In Order Of Appearance

ANDY TAYLOR	Sheriff, Mayberry County
BARNEY FIFE	Deputy Sheriff, Mayberry County
BILLY RAY BELFAST	Letter Carrier
OTIS CAMPBELL	Town Drunk
GOMER PYLE	Service Station Attendant
BEE TAYLOR	Andy Taylor’s Aunt
OPIE TAYLOR	Andy Taylor’s Son
LUKE COMSTOCK	Ex-Convict Arrested By Andy Taylor

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## *Are you scared of the trouble that’s coming?*

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### TODAY’S SCRIPTURE:

*For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.*

II Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)

*For God did not give us a spirit of timidity – of cowardice, of craven and cringing and fawning fear – but [He has given us a spirit] of power and of love and of calm and well-balanced mind and discipline and self-control.*

II Timothy 1:7 (Amplified)

### CLASS ACTIVITY:

Divide class into groups of 6-8 members. Give each group the “rating fears” worksheet, and ask them to complete the worksheet. Allow 10-15 minutes for small group discussion. Wrap up the small group session with a brief class discussion.

### TYPES OF FEAR:

Worry	harassing trouble; perplexity
Anxiety	condition of mental uneasiness arising from apprehensive concern
Panic	a sudden groundless fright
Phobia	extreme and irrational dislike, aversion, dread, or hatred

## **INTRODUCTION:**

Fear came into the world with the sin of Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:8-10), and mankind has been dealing with fear since then. Sometimes fear creeps in slowly, bit by bit, without our noticing until it becomes a part of our lives. Other times, fear whips up in our lives seemingly from nowhere and without warning.

Some believe that fear can be a good thing – as in a fear of electricity, fire, or storms. In reality, these types of “fears” are a heightened understanding or respect for their constructive or destructive forces. Fear is the opposite of faith, and certainly does not come from God. One well-know television speaker has described fear as False Evidence that Appears Real. Satan would like nothing better than to rob us of the peace and understanding we have in Christ.

John 10:10 is a promise of the life that God gives to His children – life more abundantly. The New International Version translates this verse “...and life to the full.” Imagine that, life to the full. It doesn’t sound like anything we should fear, rather something to look forward to.

The rest of the verse is the job description for the Father of Lies – he came to steal, kill, and destroy. Certainly that is what fear does. It steals our time, our talent, and our resources. It kills our ambition, our motivation, and our creativity. It destroys our health, our relationships, and our faith.

In today’s episode, we find fear taking over the town of Mayberry – especially the sheriff’s office. We’ll discuss our fears in light of the town of Mayberry, and God’s response to those fears.

### **Show Mayberry video**

## **THINGS WE FEAR:**

### **Future**

**“Well, you know, you gotta plan for the future.” – Barney to Andy (1:48)**

Matthew 6:25-34

How are we going to send the kids to college? Do we have enough money to retire? What if my job is the one cut in the next layoff? The future can be frightening, but we have to remember that if God will take care of birds and flowers, He will take care of us, as well.

### **Past**

**“...been wanting to see you for a long time to set things straight between us.”  
– Luke Comstock’s letter to Andy (2:46)**

Psalms 25:7; 103:12; Isaiah 43:25; Hebrews 10:17

All of us have a life B.C. (Before Christ). For some of us, there are things in our past that we don’t want to remember or others to find out. Although Satan likes to remind what we used to be, our Heavenly Father assures us that our past sins are covered by the blood of His Son, Jesus. That which is covered by the blood is no longer remembered.

**Unknown**                    **“What do you think he’s coming here for?” – Barney to Andy (3:06)**

Psalm 37:23; Proverbs 8:23-25; Isaiah 43:13

There is a lot of anxiety in what we don’t know. Our creative minds most often jump to the worst-case scenario. But for all that we don’t know, God does know. Before there was anything, there was God. Out of the unknown, He created the known.

**Change**                    **“If anything should happen to Andy, we might get us a new sheriff. And if we get a new sheriff, he might not be so easy on you.” – Barney to Otis (5:33)**

Psalm 102:24-27; Malachi 3:6

There is nothing quite so comfortable as routine. Upset our routine, and most of us get nervous, and some of us can’t function. Life is all about change – some planned and some not, some for the better and some not. Through all of life’s changes, God remains constant and consistent. He does not change.

**Pain**                    **“It sounds like somebody could get hurt...That’s what bothers me. I never cared much about injuries, they’re very painful.” – Otis to Barney (5:56)**

Psalm 55:22; 73:26; Jeremiah 31:25

Physical and emotional pains are often accompanied by fear. Too often we try to handle pain, hurt, and disappointment on our own. We keep it to ourselves, suffering silently, rather than giving it over to the Lord.

**Failure**                    **“Oh, it’ll never work, Barney. It’ll never work.” – Otis to Barney (7:28)**

Psalm 145:14; Isaiah 55:11; Philippians 3:13-14

What would we attempt if we knew we could not fail? What would we try if success were guaranteed? What have we not done because we were afraid to fail? If we go to God for the plan, He guarantees its success.

**Death**                    **“Suppose this guy show up, pulls out a gun, bang, bang, bang, let’s us have it? What then?” – Otis to Barney (8:03)**

John 5:24; 11:25-26; II Corinthians 1:9-10; Revelation 1:18

Death is one of the biggest fears we have – particularly if we’re not ready for it. To us, death seems so permanent and so final. We’re so inexperienced with death. It’s the one thing that we can’t opt out of; we can’t try it on to see how it fits. To God, death is simply a bridge between the earthly life and the heavenly life. But if we truly trust God with our lives, He will take us safely through death.

**Circumstances** “Oh, Andy, I know Barney’s excitable and he has a wild imagination, but this does sound serious.” – Aunt Bee to Andy (13:28)

Job 5:19-27

This is a case of, “don’t bother me with the truth. Just give me the facts, and I’ll make up my own truth.” While we worry over the situation we’re in, God sees the complete picture.

**Separation** “You’re sending Aunt Bee and me over to Miss Clara’s.” – Opie to Andy (15:58)

Deuteronomy 30:4; Isaiah 40:11; 61:3

There is no heartbreak like the one that comes when families are separated. Husbands and wives can be separated through divorce. Children and parents become separated through rebellion. Brothers and sisters are separated because of disagreement. Our Heavenly Father is a God of reconciliation and restoration. Only He can mend a broken family.

**Missed opportunity** “It’s too late! He’s got the drop on him.” – Barney to Otis & Gomer (21:33)

Psalms 55:22; Proverbs 16:3; Philippians 4:6-7

A lot of stress, particularly in the business world, comes because we are afraid of missing a golden opportunity. Consequently, we end up running down every little pathway, chasing butterflies of chance. How much better it would be if we would just lay everything before God and ask for His guidance.

## **WHERE THERE IS FEAR . . .**

“It’s all right here...all you gotta do is look for it!” – Barney to Andy (3:04)

Too many times, we actually go looking for reasons to be afraid, anxious, or worried. It’s probably unintentional, but we do it nonetheless. If we set ourselves up for fear, Satan is all too ready to move in and capitalize on that fear. The Apostle Paul, however, gives us an antidote for fear in Philippians 4:8.

*Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things. (NIV)*

**POINT TO CONSIDER**

Good men have the fewest fears. There is beauty in going through life without anxiety or fear. Half of our fears are baseless, and the other half discreditable.

Christian Nestell Bovee (1820-1904)  
American author and editor

The point to this quote is that all men fear. Some manage their fear and hide it well. Fear (worry) is like the proverbial rocking chair—always active, but traveling nowhere.

The character in today's lesson I most identify with is \_\_\_\_\_

With God's help, I will try to change the following \_\_\_\_\_

Final Thought: God, help me realize \_\_\_\_\_

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**Additional help? Comment? Question? Application? Activity idea?**

**Contact Thomas Harrison at [Back2Mayberry@aol.com](mailto:Back2Mayberry@aol.com) or fax your questions and comments to  
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# THE MAYBERRY GAZETTE

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## Ex-convict looking for revenge against Sheriff

(Mayberry) Sheriff Andy Taylor just this week received a letter in the mail from Luke Comstock, a thief who was shot in the leg during the gas station hold-up 11 years ago. According to Deputy Barney Fife, "Comstock is a criminal who has done hard time in the state penitentiary."

Deputy Fife alerted this newspaper about the threat Mr. Comstock made against Sheriff Taylor. "Comstock clearly states in his letter that he wants 'to set things straight' between him and the sheriff," says Deputy Fife.

"There is no need for any citizen of Mayberry to worry," says Deputy Fife.

"I have devised a superior plan for dealing with this man should he try to bring any of his criminal activity to our town."

Deputy Fife has deputized Mr. Otis Campbell and Mr. Gomer Pyle to protect Sheriff Taylor. "These two deputies are going to stick to the sheriff like bubblegum under a church pew."

All Mayberry citizens are asked to be on the lookout for a suspicious man with a game left leg. Anyone seeing such a person should call the sheriff's office immediately. Do not try to apprehend this man yourself, as he is a dangerous criminal.

Grant Lewis  
*Gazette* reporter

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TAGS: *High Noon in Mayberry*

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Today's Scripture:

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But of power and of love and of a sound mind.*

II Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)

## Types Of Fear:

Worry	harassing trouble; perplexity
Anxiety	condition of mental uneasiness arising from apprehensive concern
Panic	a sudden groundless fright
Phobia	extreme and irrational dislike, aversion, dread, or hatred

## What Do We Fear?

Future	Matthew 6:25-34
Past	Psalm 25:7 Psalm 103:12 Isaiah 43:25 Hebrews 10:17
Unknown	Psalm 37:23 Proverbs 8:23-25 Isaiah 43:13
Change	Psalm 102:24-27 Malachi 3:6
Pain	Psalm 55:22 Psalm 73:26 Jeremiah 31:25
Failure	Psalm 145:14 Isaiah 55:11 Philippians 3:13-14
Death	John 5:24 John 11:25-26 II Corinthians 1:9-10 Revelation 1:18
Circumstances	Job 5:19-27
Separation	Deuteronomy 30:4 Isaiah 40:11 Isaiah 61:3
Missed opportunity	Psalm 55:22 Proverbs 16:3 Philippians 4:6-7

## Where Does Fear Come From?

Our minds

Philippians 4:8

### Point To Consider:

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Christian Nestell Bovee (1820-1904)  
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The character in today's lesson I most identify with is \_\_\_\_\_

With God's help, I will try to change the following \_\_\_\_\_

### Final Thought:

God, help me realize \_\_\_\_\_

The Mayberry Welcome Society  
invites you to return next week!

**F**alse  
**E**vidence  
that  
**A**ppears  
**R**eal

*For God has not given us a spirit of fear,  
But of power and of love and of a sound mind.  
II Timothy 1:7 (NKJV)*

How do you rate these common fears?	<b>Worry</b>	<b>Anxiety</b>	<b>Panic</b>	<b>Phobia</b>
Flying Heights Public speaking Insects Cats Dogs Water Tornadoes/Storms Crowded mall Frogs Snakes Rush hour driving Your first date Your child's first date Your 16-year old driving to out-of-town ballgame with friends Your 20-year old driving to out-of-town ballgame with friends First day of school Moving to new city Changing jobs Losing job Retirement Starting college Realizing your 5-year old is not behind you at the store Realizing your 15-year old is not behind you at the store Meeting your in-laws Family reunion				